

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING (SALT TWO--284)

1. AT TODAY'S MEETING SEMENOV DEVOTED PREPARED STATEMENT TO EXPOSITION ON HOW MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON AGREEMENTS AND THIER EMPHASIS ON "EQUAL SECURITY" AND "EQUAL SECURITY INTERESTS" AND "NO UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE" SUPPORT SOVIET POSITION ON FBS. ISSUE. HOWEVER HE MADE NO DIRECT COMMENTS ON OUR MAY PROPOSALS AND DID NOT IN ANYWAY MENTION MIRVS. IN MY PREPARED STATEMENT, WHICH FOLLOWED HIS, I SET FORTH IN DETAIL ON HOW BOTH OUR MARCH AND MAY PROPOSALS ARE IN FULL CONFORMITY WITH MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON AGREE-MENTS. FORTUITOUSLY, THIS FITTED WELL AS REPLY TO HIS STATEMENT. (TEXTS BY SEPTTEL.)

2. IN OUR SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE CONVERSATION, I STRONGLY EMPHASIZED TO SEMENOV FIRMNESS OUR POSITION ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION FORMULA AS DEFINITIVE SOLUTION TO NON-CENTRAL SYSTEMS ISSUE, BUT POINTED OUT THAT OUR PROPOSAL FOR PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT ON MIRVS DID NOT REQUIRE PRIOR SETTLEMENT OF THIS ISSUE. IN REPLY TO MY REVIEW OF HISTORY OF MIRV QUESTION IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND WHETHER AND WHEN I COULD EXPECT ANY RESPONSE, HE SAID, "AT ONE OF OUR SUB-SEQUENT MEETINGS HE WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THE CONSIDERATIONS OF
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SOVIET SIDE IN THIS CONTEXT ALSO." I SAID I WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO HIS PRESENTATION. IN RESPONSE TO MY REMARKS ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION, HE SAID US POSITION HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY CONSIDERED IN MOSCOW DURING RECESS BUT WHAT I SAID TO HIM TODAY WOULD "HELP HIM FURTHER DISCUSS MATTER WITHIN HIS DELEGATION." (HOWEVER, I THINK IT WOULD BE WRONG TO READ INTO THIS ANY IMPLICATION OF POSSIBLE CHANGE IN THEIR POSITION.)

3. IN RESPONSE TO NITZE'S PROBING ON MIRVS IN THEIR BILATERAL CONVERSATION, SHCHUKIN GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT, IF ANY, POSITION THEY MAY PUT FORWARD, OTHER THAN THAT THE JANUARY 1, 1973, DATE IN OUR PROPOSED PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS AND WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. OTHER BILATERALS SHED NO LIGHT ON THE SOVIET MIRV POSITION.

JOHNSON

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